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Invest Health Partnership Wins \$60K Grant, Selects Southwest Lansing for New Community-Based Initiative

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero and Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail joined other community leaders today to announce that metro Lansing’s Invest Health partnership has received a \$60,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Reinvestment Fund to target a key location in southwest Lansing for community-based redevelopment.

The partnership, which includes the City of Lansing, Ingham County Health Department, Lansing School District, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) and Sparrow Health System, will work with area residents and community organizations to develop a strategic action plan that seeks to improve the health of residents in the Pleasant Grove/Holmes area of southwest Lansing by increasing access to quality jobs, affordable housing, and nutritious food, and reducing crime rates and environmental hazards. As part of the initiative, Invest Health will work with community partners to evaluate the potential for a now-closed charter school building to become a community hub for services and activities that promote these goals.

Mayor Bernero said the decision to focus on southwest Lansing by the Invest Health partnership builds on the work of LEAP’s Southwest Lansing Action Plan, which was funded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to create a new blueprint for economic and community development in the southwest quadrant of the city.

“The synergies between these two efforts will engage a broad coalition of stakeholders to drive positive change in southwest Lansing,” said Mayor Bernero. “Repurposing an old school building as a hub for community-based services and activities is a powerful concept that we will work diligently to bring to fruition.”

“Invest Health brings non-traditional partners together to tackle health disparities in an upstream approach to community health,” said Ingham County Health Officer Vail. “By focusing on community development, this initiative transforms the environment from one that hinders health to one that promotes and creates opportunities for health.”

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About Invest Health

Invest Health is a national initiative that brings together diverse leaders from mid-sized U.S. cities across the nation to develop new strategies for increasing and leveraging private and public investments to accelerate improvements in neighborhoods facing the biggest barriers to better health. The program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Reinvestment Fund.

This initiative was developed to provide an opportunity for mid-sized cities to transform the way local leaders work together to create solution-driven and diverse partnerships. These partnerships will emphasize making changes in low-income neighborhoods to improve resident health and well-being.

For more information, please visit the Invest Health project website at investhealth.org.

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